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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/723,692

11/26/2003

James B. McCormick

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EXAMINER

RAMILLANO, LORE JANET

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1797

NOTIFICATION DATE

DELIVERY MODE

05/01/2008

ELECTRONIC

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

IPDOCKET@THOMPSONCOBURN.COM

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/723,692	<b>Applicant(s)</b> MCCORMICK, JAMES B.	
	<b>Examiner</b> LORE RAMILLANO	<b>Art Unit</b> 1797	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 February 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 11/26/03 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                                | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                       | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application                       |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114***

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 2/19/08 has been entered.

### ***Status of Claims***

2. In applicant's reply filed on 2/19/08, applicant amended claims 1-2 and 5-7; and cancelled claims 8-10. Claims 1-7 are pending and are under examination.

### ***Response to Amendment***

#### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

3. Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 1 is rejected because it claims both an apparatus and a method step, "wherein the liquid is utilized in histological examination." A single claim which claims both an apparatus and a method of using the apparatus step is indefinite under 35 USC 112, second paragraph.

***Prior art rejections***

4. In light of applicant's amendments, the rejections over the prior art are withdrawn. New rejections follow.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

6. **Claims 1-2 and 5-6** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hartl ("Hartl," US 4225557) in light of Roe et al. ("Roe," US 6060039).

In figures 1-3, Hartl discloses a foldable liquid permeable sheet (i.e. cardboard) having edges; a liquid permeable target (i.e. 13) disposed on the foldable liquid permeable sheet within the edges of the sheet, thereby providing extended flap portions which flap portions are foldable to overlap the liquid permeable target; and a malleable securing strip (i.e. 18) attached to the foldable liquid permeable sheet of a length sufficient to secure the folded flap portions overlapping the liquid permeable target (i.e. column 3, lines 30-47).

Hartl further discloses, in figures 1-3, the following: that the malleable securing strip is attached at an edge of the liquid permeable sheet; the liquid permeable target is coated with a release agent (i.e. col. 3, lined 46- 47); the permeable target is a permeable paper sheet (i.e. col. 3, lines 46-47).

Roe discloses a floor (11) of a container (10) in fig. 7B, that may be made of a material that is permeable to water, such as cardboard, nitrocellulose or paper in, i.e. col. 11, line 63 to col. 12, line 2. Hartl's cardboard sheet is inherently liquid permeable because Roe discloses that cardboard is a material that is permeable to water.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

7. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

8. **Claims 3 and 4** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hartl, in light of Roe, and in view of Rochette (US 3537636).

The disclosure of Hartl, in light of Roe, is stated above. Hartl, in light of Roe, does not specifically disclose having a malleable securing strip comprising a metal wire or a metal foil.

In figures 1-4, Rochette discloses an invention consisting of a reclosable bag formed from a sheet of flexible material. The bag further comprises a bendable metal wire and a pair of flexible coverings strips (i.e. metal foil), which are sealed together and the wire is sandwiched between so that the wire is embedded between the strips (i.e. column 2, line 70 to column 3, line 8). It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify the malleable securing strip of Hartl, in light of Roe, with a metal wire and/or with a metal foil because it would be beneficial to have a sealing means that provides reinforcement.

9. **Claim 7** is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hartl, in light of Roe.

The disclosure of Hartl, in light of Roe, is indicated above. While Hartl, in light of Roe, discloses having an X and Y coordinate marking lines on the liquid permeable target in fig. 1 for explanatory purposes, Hartl, in light of Roe, does not specifically disclose having such marking lines physically on the liquid permeable target. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify Hartl, in light of Roe, by physically having the X and Y coordinate marking lines on the liquid permeable target because it would be allow the user to quickly determine whether the sample is placed on the portions of the target that has the greatest color intensity to insure a correct diagnosis is made.

### ***Response to Arguments***

10. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-7 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to LORE RAMILLANO whose telephone number is (571) 272-7420. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon. to Fri.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jill Warden can be reached on (571) 272-1267. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

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For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Jill Warden/  
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1797

Lore Ramillano  
Examiner  
Art Unit 1797